

# **RAISE HELL**

Issue 01

"RAIN HEAVEN" Part 01

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## PAGE 1

### PANEL 1

Autumn. One of those sunny days where it seems anything's possible.

A billion leaves litter the ground and one sole custodian fights the unwinnable battle to rake them into order.

The students of this large high school, SANTA ANNA HIGH, don't help matters either, with all their jumping into the piles he makes.

It's a beautiful school though, all big and bustly with activity.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

They have a lot of words to describe a girl like me.

### PANEL 2

In a panel directly underneath the previous, in the same way that this world is directly under that, is capital-H Hell. Proper noun. A place you could visit, if you caught the right bus.

And boy, is it busy. It's like Black Friday at a Walmart down here, except a little less awful than that is.

Think of it as Times Square on New Years Eve, but with fewer novelty glasses.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

None of them particularly flattering.

## PAGE 2

### PANEL 1

Inside the school, a GOTHIC GIRL applies a heavy amount of black makeup at her locker. As if she needed any more.

In the background, a BLONDE CHEERLEADER gossips with a bunch of other attractive, but not as attractive as her, girls.

It's a busy hallway.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

It's hard to pick a favorite --

### PANEL 2

The Gothic Girl gets a test back. On the top, in bright red, is the letter F. Beneath it, slightly smaller, the teacher added "As in WTF is this?"

Littered across the paper are all kinds of dark drawings of creatures and monsters (possibly similar to ones we'll be seeing later?).

Might be worth noting that she left most of the answers on the test blank too.

Sitting ahead of her is the Blonde Cheerleader. The top of her test has a bright sparkly A.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

And should tell you something about me  
that I'd try --

### PANEL 3

Behind the bleachers at the football field, the Gothic Girl reads Poe all by herself. Which is the biggest stereotype I can think of.

Through the bleachers, we can see the Blonde Cheerleader, well, cheerleading. There's not a game going on, but they practice hard.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

But I think I got it.

## PAGE 3

### PANEL 1

The Gothic Girl sits on a toilet in the bathroom, smoking. She wears headphones over one ear and she's just lost in this perfect picture of high school rebellion.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)  
"Troubled?" Nah. Everyone's got problems.

SFX  
Creeeeeeeeak.

### PANEL 2

Cigarette hanging out her lips, the Gothic Girl stands on the toilet to look over the stall.

In comes the Blonde Cheerleader, smiling so hard it looks like it hurts.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)  
Mine are just a little more ... external.

### PANEL 3

The Gothic Girl sits back down on the toilet. Back to her own little world.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)  
"Special" always sounds like it's supposed to be a compliment.

### PANEL 4

The Blonde Cheerleader stands in front of the mirror, checking herself out. Flawless, of course.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)  
Of course it's not.

## PAGE 4

### PANEL 1

Back on the toilet, the Gothic Girl puts her headphones over the other ear as well.

Who wants to hear what this cheerleader is going to have to say?

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

Hey!

### PANEL 2

The Gothic Girl takes a looooooong drag of her cigarette. Practically smokes the whole thing right here. It's pretty freakin' cool.

CHARLIE (OFF)

That is NOT me.

### PANEL 3

Like a pull-out wide would be in film, we move out of the stall.

The Blonde Cheerleader is looking at us. Maybe waving us over.

This, by the way, is CHARLIE.

CHARLIE

That's better.

CHARLIE

Hi.

### PANEL 4

In closer on her, she gives us a warm smile.

CHARLIE

How ya doing?

## PAGE 5

### PANEL 1

She turns back to the mirror and checks her hair. She is, of course, flawless.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 2

She pushes out a big smile. Still "fixing" herself.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 3

Then the smile breaks.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 4

And just like that, she's crying. Big tears streaming down her face.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 5

Not saying a word. Just silently bawling.

Behind her, a light wisp of smoke forms over the stall.

NO DIALOGUE

## PAGE 6

### PANEL 1

And then the smoke above the stall gets thicker. Charlie starts to notice, even through her tears.

CHARLIE

No!

### PANEL 2

She turns to the stall. Shouts at the smoke.

CHARLIE

Go away! I haven't summoned you.

### PANEL 3

The stall door swings open. It's a dramatic moment. We can't yet see who's inside.

CHARLIE

You're only making my life worse, you know that?

### PANEL 4

Then the Gothic Girl steps out. Smoking. Headphones. You know the drill.

Her name, by the way, is KALA.

KALA

Hey.

## PAGE 7

### PANEL 1

Kala walks up to the mirror next to Charlie. Looks in it, but doesn't really care.

KALA

Sorry.

KALA

About the smoke, I mean.

### PANEL 2

Charlie turns back to the mirror. Tries to wipe away the evidence of crying.

CHARLIE

Oh, it's okay. Sorry about the shouting.

KALA

What?

CHARLIE

Nothing.

### PANEL 3

Charlie looks down to the ground.

CHARLIE

So...

CHARLIE

How's your mom?

KALA

Good, thanks. I mean, better, at least.

### PANEL 4

Charlie looks back up. They make eye contact in the mirror for a moment. Maybe even share a little smile. Friendly and warm, but a little sad too.

NO DIALOGUE

## PAGE 8

### PANEL 1

Charlie turns back to herself in the mirror. Fixes herself up a little more, as if there was anything to fix.

CHARLIE

I should probably get to class.

### PANEL 2

Kala takes a long drag from her cigarette.

KALA

Yeah, I was just getting to the good part of this cigarette, so...

### PANEL 3

They walk in opposite directions - Charlie to the bathroom door, Kala back to the stalls.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 4

Charlie opens the bathroom door, and from outside the door, she's perfect again. Like nothing ever happened. Huge smile on her face.

NO DIALOGUE

## PAGE 9

### PANEL 1

Charlie walks up and opens her locker.

We might not notice yet, but a small crowd forms around her.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 2

Inside the locker is a huge stack of yellow papers. Unclear what's on it yet.

She reaches for it.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 3

A hand full of papers, she turns around.

We can see what's on them now - invitations to a party.

And when she turns around, the crowd around her has gotten quite large. They knew these invites were coming.

CHARLIE

Oh hey.

CHARLIE

You people wanna go to a party?

### PANEL 4

Everyone cheers as she starts handing out the invitations.

She's got a huge smile.

CHARLIE

There's enough for everybody. Calm down.

### PANEL 5

Kala comes out of the bathroom to see this. Stands nearby to watch.

NO DIALOGUE

PANEL 6

The crowds begin to disperse. Charlie makes eye contact with Kala, but doesn't hand her an invite.

NO DIALOGUE

## PAGE 10

### PANEL 1

Then, as the crowds begin to part, seeming to stop all time and blind everyone with brilliance, GABRIEL, the most gorgeous high school boy you've ever seen, walks through the front door of the school.

And he doesn't even look like a high school boy. He's like one of those actors that look way too old for their role you see all the time in Jennifer Lopez movies or whatever.

CHARLIE

Wow.

### PANEL 2

Charlie pushes through the remaining crowd, in a daze, beelining right for Gabriel.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

I'd always remember today. For the rest of my life.

### PANEL 3

As she gets closer, he's even better looking. All muscles and chiseled.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

It was the day I fell in love with the man who would kill me.

## PAGE 11

### PANEL 1

DREW, the quarterback of the school's football team, steps right between Charlie and the new object of her affection.

Drew is, inexplicably, wearing some of his football uniform in school. Even holding a football.

DREW  
Hey Charl.

DREW  
Excited about the party tonight.

### PANEL 2

Charlie barely looks at him, focusing on her beeline to the heavenly body standing near the front door.

You could almost swear Gabriel is glowing.

CHARLIE  
Yeah. Cool. See you then.

### PANEL 3

She tries to sidestep. Drew steps back in front of her again.

DREW  
I just mean, it'll be nice to see you.  
Haven't gotten to ... spend much time  
together lately.

DREW  
You know?

### PANEL 4

Charlie finally looks at Drew. Actually looks at him. He's big, and handsome too.

NO DIALOGUE

## PAGE 12

PANEL 1

We're behind Drew and Charlie's completely blocked. Dwarfed by him.

Drew's got his hands out, using them for emphasis as he talks to her.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

I'm not proud of this, but sometimes  
when I'm not with someone, Drew and I --

PANEL 2

She smiles and nods along as he talks. Unclear about what.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

He was sweet, I guess. He really liked  
me.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

I really liked being liked.

PANEL 3

Behind Drew's back again, Charlie leans out just a little for another peek at Gabriel.

Her eyes are wide with delight.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

Miraculous, like this, he wasn't.

PANEL 4

Charlie finally manages to sidestep Drew.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

Plus it always seemed like he'd be high-  
fiving his friends behind my back.

PANEL 5

Drew walks back to a crowd of a bunch of other football players, his shoulders slumped.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

You know, even during, if I wasn't

looking.

OTHER FOOTBALL PLAYER

Dang dude, are you ever gonna get to hit  
that?

## PAGE 13

### PANEL 1

She's back to her beeline to Gabriel.

He's still just standing in the front door, letting people like Charlie bask in his amazingness.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)  
I wasn't lost for words often.

### PANEL 2

She finally gets to him. Stands in front of him.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)  
They never told me, but I could tell  
people thought I talked too much.

CHARLIE  
Uhh...

### PANEL 3

She just stands in front of him. He's looking at her, waiting for her to say something.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 4

Maybe one more panel to extend the awkward beat? I think so.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 5

Finally, she shoves an invite at him. For a girl this popular, you'd think she'd be better at this.

CHARLIE  
Charlie.

CHARLIE  
My name is Charlie.

CHARLIE

Uh, here.

## PAGE 14

### PANEL 1

She runs back to her friends giggling. Like she wasn't just totally awkward.

CHARLIE

Yeah, he's totally coming.

### PANEL 2

Back at the front door, Drew walks up to Gabriel. Drew's a big guy, but Gabriel is just huge.

Drew extends his hand to make friends.

DREW

Hey, nice to meet you.

### PANEL 3

Gabriel just stares at it.

DREW

Look. About Charlie.

### PANEL 4

Drew pulls his hand back.

DREW

Her and I kind of have a thing.

DREW

You can resp--

### PANEL 5

Gabriel shoulders past Drew, ignoring him completely.

GABRIEL

Yeah, I really don't care.

GABRIEL

Thanks though.

## PAGE 15

### PANEL 1

House party!

Charlie's house is big and rich and full of high school kids doing a bunch of stuff they shouldn't be.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 2

Charlie, as is typical of the host, moves through the party, not staying too long with one person.

Here, she's got a red plastic cup high over her head as she moves through a tight crowd.

CHARLIE

'Scuse me. Hello?

CHARLIE

Coming through!

### PANEL 3

A couple makes out on the kitchen table. Charlie moves a vase further from them so they won't knock it down.

CHARLIE

Don't mind me. Just get this out of your way.

DREW (OFF)

Charlie!

### PANEL 4

Charlie takes a minute to roll her eyes as far back in her head as possible.

NO DIALOGUE

## PAGE 16

### PANEL 1

When Drew gets to where Charlie just was, she's not there.

He looks around, confused.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 2

At the front door, trying to play it as cool as possible, Kala's sneaking in.

She puts out her cigarette on the front mat before entering.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 3

Inside, Kala grabs a cup out of someone's hand as she walks by.

For trying to blend in, she still stands out.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 4

She takes a drink from the cup she grabbed.

Luckily, everyone's too self-involved to notice her.

NO DIALOGUE

## PAGE 17

### PANEL 1

Charlie's still moving through the party, never staying in one place very long.

Not far behind is Drew.

He's trying to catch her attention.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 2

Finally, Drew catches up to her. Taps her on the shoulder.

You could almost swear he's out of breath from the chase.

DREW

Charlie, hey.

DREW

Been trying to get your attention all night.

### PANEL 3

She smiles. Warm, but clearly doesn't want to talk to him. Not that he sees that though.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 4

After that beat of silence, she looks like she's ready to walk away. He can tell.

CHARLIE

Uh...

DREW

I mean, great party, right?

### PANEL 5

Then the smile on her face gets huge. He doesn't notice, but she's looking past him.

CHARLIE

Amazing.

## PAGE 18

### PANEL 1

In as big and glorious of a manner as possible, we see Gabriel at the front door. It's one of those effects where there's this heavenly glow coming from behind him.

Ham it up as absolutely much as you want.

The point is, Charlie's enthralled.

And if you were listening, you could totally hear the Hallelujah Chorus.

ANGELS (SINGING)  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah,  
hallelujah. Hallelu--

### PANEL 2

Charlie pushes right past Drew as if he doesn't exist.

He, of course, isn't happy.

CHARLIE  
You made it!

### PANEL 3

Gabriel turns her way, all the glory of heaven shining around him.

CHARLIE  
Hi.

### PANEL 4

It's so bright, Charlie have to cover her eyes.

CHARLIE  
Will you shut that thing off!

### PANEL 5

The person in the front yard turns their car headlights off.

Lighting goes back to normal.

CHARLIE

God, sorry about that.

CHARLIE

So, how are yo--

## PAGE 19

### PANEL 1

Then, ruining absolutely everything, Charlie's DAD shows up.

He bursts through the door drunk as could be and everything in the party just stops.

DAD  
What the hell?

### PANEL 2

He takes a drink from the bottle in his hand, pushing past Charlie.

DAD  
What are all of you doing in my house?

### PANEL 3

No one moves. No one knows what to do. That couple on the kitchen table is still making out.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 4

He turns to Charlie, fire and whiskey in his eyes.

DAD  
What are these people doing here?

### PANEL 5

Charlie's humiliated in front of Gabriel.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 6

Not getting an answer from anyone, he rages.

DAD  
Well?

DAD

Get out!

## PAGE 20

### PANEL 1

With that, he starts chasing through the house, scaring everyone out.

He chases off the people making out on the kitchen table.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

They call a girl like me a lot of things.

### PANEL 2

He frightens people out of the living room.

It should be noted that in his drunken stupor, he's probably making more of a mess of his house than they were.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

Never a daddy's girl.

### PANEL 3

He even chases Drew out of the house. As big as Drew is, he knows not to mess with Charlie's Dad.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)

I hope.

## PAGE 21

### PANEL 1

After he manages to chase everyone out, he approaches Charlie.  
Menacing.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)  
But like I said, I know my favorite.

DAD  
Now for you.

### PANEL 2

She flinches.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 3

He walks right past her to the keg set up in the living room.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 4

Before he can even get to getting a drink, he passes out.

NO DIALOGUE

### PANEL 5

Charlie heads up the stairs, looking back at her mess and her dad.

Which I guess are kinda the same thing.

NO DIALOGUE

## PAGE 22

### PANEL 1

A full-page splash, Charlie lays on her bed all alone.

Well, alone aside from all of the DEMONS that dance and play through her room.

Some of them should look like the drawings we saw on the Gothic Girl's paper earlier.

And they don't have to be scary. It's like Charlie's continuing the party, just with new guests.

CAPTION (CHARLIE)  
She's got demons.

## PAGE 23

### PANEL 1

The opposite page, and a continuation of the demon party in the room, we see inside Charlie's closet.

And inside, Kala looks more than a little freaked out.

Because she can see all the demons.

And like we said, a lot of them look like her demons.

CAPTION

To be continued...